(Rs. in crores)

Year	Priority Sector Advances (PS)	Share of Minority Communities in Priority Sector (in all districts)	
	(B)	all Amt. (A)	% share to PS (A/B)
March 2006	516334.78	45490.60	8.81
* September 2006 (latest available)	556967.20	51669.51	9.28

(c) Government has decided that efforts be made for stepping up Priority Sector Lending to minorities from the present level of 9% to 15% over a period of three years.

Pursuant to the PM's new 15-Point Programmes for the Welfare of Minority Communities, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has issued a revised circular dated 18.05.2007 to the Scheduled Commercial Banks for including minority communities under the heading "Weaker Section" under Priority Sector Lending.

In their consolidated Master Circular on lending to minorities dated 5.07.2007, the RBI has also advised the banks to take care to ensure that minority communities secure in a fair and adequate measure, the benefits flowing from various Government sponsored special programmes. The master circular *inter-alia* envisages creating a separate cell in each bank to ensure smooth flow of credit to minority communities.

Smuggling of fake notes

947. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) conduits have confessed that counterfeit currency worth more than one crore rupees has already been pumped into the economy of India in recent months through agents in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand;

(b) if so, how such a large quantity of counterfeits being smuggled into the country, reportedly printed in Quetta (pakistan) and difficult to identify the fakes from the originals; and

(c) if so, what measures Government have taken to check the flow of huge fake currency into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.